

SOUTH-EAST

Individual Ideas From Evaluations

- Over the year “loop holes” in the sales tax have excluded \$6 billion of tax revenue, the system is based on a manufacturing economy of the 20th century. We are now in the 21st century service economy, thence review and correct the tax code.
- Good job DWD and Sue Gleason, Terry Ludeman, et. Al. Excellent inter-agency collaboration with private sector voice as well. Keep the heat on over private sector-types to provide input!
- Housing policy is education policy. Economic segregation of residences makes school districts more polarized and weak. “Bad neighborhoods” and “bad school Districts” exist because home buyers face overwhelming incentive to isolate themselves from low-income households as much as possible. To reverse collapse of Milwaukee Public Schools, we must reverse the flight of affluent people to Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties.
- Concentrate all workforce and economic development efforts, funds and programs into one state department or move it to a private sector initiative like in Michigan. Include all employment and training programs in these efforts.
- State should begin process of getting state employees paying larger share of health care costs (as is true in the private sector). Better engaged consumers lead better educated consumers.
- Have system in place to deal with health care costs and quality of life issues for aging and elderly population.
- Establish a neighborhood assistance tax credit to encourage private sector (individual and corporate) investment in projects undertaken by tax exempt community-based development organizations. Fifteen other states have it; Wisconsin should too.
- Consolidation of this regions economic development groups. Examine State Highway Patrol system/reduce. Promote Milwaukee as part of the state instead of negativism. Would then be able to compete with northern Chicago and Illinois.
- Spend less on prisons to associated criminal justices and improve rehabilitation and alternative correctional programs. This would save lots of money and improve people’s post-sentencing productivity neutral health tax paying capacity.
- We need to develop new transportation systems for people who don’t drive (no license, lack skill or vehicle) to get to work.
- I believe we need to get to “root causes” i.e. surveys in-state and out of state for determining image perceptions. Not just treat symptoms with Band-Aids. I.e. Marketing. I didn’t pick up and “radical” or out of the box thinking or ideas. I also believe organized labor frightens companies, restricts entrepreneurship, change, creativity, and innovation and affects Wisconsin’s image. It limits individuals rights and options. I would like to see Wisconsin move to being a RIGHT to WORK state. If I was required to join a union to do my job, I would leave the state too.
- Infrastructure issues-both telecommunications and traditional – is extremely important. We need to make sure we will encourage alternatives i.e. alternative energy such as wind, alternative transportation, such as rail, etc.
- Reduce the number of economic development organizations and initiatives in the state – focus resources on the chosen few and get everyone behind them.

Increase capital access options for entrepreneurs (especially start-ups). It is time to take action steps toward implementing ideas. There aren't too many new ideas.

- Find way to reduce state border issues – for Kenosha & Racine, regional economic development must include northern Illinois. Reduce non-resident tuition for Lake County students who want to attend UW “border” institutions.
- Economic Development for the future hinges on a well educated workforce – as an individual employed in field of education. Testing is NOT the answer – it is only one method of assessment. DPI needs to benchmark the successful states, entities in terms of outcomes, reduced dropout rate and satisfied students and parents.
- Provide incentives to attract new and big business to Wisconsin.
- Add higher-educated knowledge worker focus to workforce development system agenda in Wisconsin. Assess technology infrastructure of state (building upon model in SE Wisconsin) and address regulatory standards for telecommunication providers.
- We have to address diversity. If entrepreneurship is key to Wisconsin economy – we need to improve and expand resources and the service delivery of them – entrepreneurs cannot spend sixteen weeks in a class. All these efforts – ED, entrepreneurship, Venture needs to be coordinated – we are reinventing the wheel again and again. We are educating the same audience with summit after summit. The new players in economic development need to partner – not go it alone with the UW system the first to take note of this message.
- **WE DO NEED** to have more electrical power in southeast Wisconsin very soon!!!! It is tough to attract and keep businesses with “iffy power reliability”.
- Develop an economic development element plan for the nine-county southeastern Wisconsin district in accordance with the Smart Growth law. (perhaps integrate other strategic elements – such as transportation and land use – to make it a more comprehensive plan).
- Ten year student loan forgiveness plan. Anything less than ten is too short! Please call me for details. I testified in front of Joan Townsend's economic development committee regarding this and have a position paper. Jim Kuretz – 262-542-2857.